GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:56
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003
DE-MINING OF FORWARD AREAS
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;PRABHA RAU

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to provide safety to the people living in the villages in Indo-Pak border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether de-mining of the forward areas has been agreed to by India and Pakistan after the withdrawal of troops from the forward positions;

(d) if so, whether the de-mining has been completed on the border;

(e) if not, the time by which de-mining process is likely to be completed;

(f) the number of personnel and civilians killed/wounded due to mine blasts since December 2001; and

(g) the compensation paid to the victims?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 56 FOR 20.2.2003

Adequate measures have been taken to ensure safety to the people living in the villages close to the border from inadvertently stepping onto the minefields. The minefields have been fenced, marked, guarded and are patrolled. Further, villagers have been informed and sensitized regarding the presence of the minefields.

There is no agreement with Pakistan on the issue of de-mining of the forward areas. However, reliable inputs suggest that the Pakistan Army is also undertaking similar de-mining on its side of the border.

Mines laid on the International Border (IB) during `OP PARAKRAM` are being removed and the requisite number of troops have beer deployed for the mine clearance operations.

As per records available casualties suffered due to mine blasts since December 2001 are as follows:-

Nature of Casualties	Mine Laying		De-mining Operations		Total
	Army	Civilian	Army	Civilian	
Killed	60	21	4	Nil	85
Wounded	142	100	45	3	290
Total	202	121	49	3	375

Compensation is paid to each of the dependent(s) soldiers in accordance with a comprehensive welfare package for battle casualties. For civilians a scheme `Ex-gratia compensation package for land mine casualties` has been sanctioned and made effective retrospectively from 19th December, 2001, the day when `OP PARAKRAM` started.